

# TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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## NEWS NOTES

### Government to stop collecting long-distance telephone tax

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced that it will stop collecting the federal excise tax on long-distance telephone service.

The tax on telephone services was first imposed in 1898. The current rate is 3 percent of the charges billed for these services. The IRS announcement follows decisions in five federal appeals courts holding that the tax does not apply to long-distance service as it is billed today.

Taxpayers will be eligible to file for refunds of all excise tax they have paid on long-distance service billed to them after Feb. 28, 2003. Interest will be paid on these refunds.

Taxpayers will claim this refund on their 2006 tax returns. In order to minimize burden, the IRS expects to announce soon a simplified method that individuals may use.

“So taxpayers won’t have to spend time digging through old telephone bills, we’re designing a straightforward process that taxpayers may use when they file their tax returns next year,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson.

The IRS announcement does not affect the federal excise tax on local telephone service, which remains in effect. Likewise, various state and local taxes and fees paid by telephone customers are also unaffected.

For more information read IRS Notice 2006-50, posted on [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov); or the Internal Revenue Bulletin 2006-25, dated June 19.

### FEW to host luncheon

The Tobyhanna chapter of Federally Employed Women is hosting a Women’s Equality Day luncheon Aug. 31 at The Landing. Guest speaker is Jill Garrett of WNEP-TV16 News. Tickets cost \$9 and are available through directorate secretaries.

For more information, call Brenda StDuran, X57615.

## Power modification saves money

by Jacqueline Boucher  
Assistant Editor

An employee’s innovative idea helped save \$910,000 by installing a new power supply rather than repairing the existing, aging power supply in an ongoing Reset Program.

Technicians here designed and installed 91 of 117 power supply modification kits on the Army’s Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (AFATDS) vehicles. The kit supplies alternating and direct current to operate communications equipment and computers in the M577 Command Post Carrier vehicles. It also charges and conditions the vehicle batteries.

“It’s [the modification kit] a multi-functioning unit,” said Charlie Wells, electronic technician, Project Design and Development Division, Production Engineering Directorate. Wells said the

idea for the kit came to him when he discovered components returned for repairs were always covered with sand following a desert deployment.

The AFATDS provides fully automated support for planning, coordinating and controlling all fire support assets such as field artillery, mortars, naval gunfire and attack helicopters.

The M577 is a tracked communications vehicle, which is a modified version of the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier.

In addition to saving money, officials anticipate the upgrade will improve the performance of the AFATDS components despite the harsh battlefield environment.

“The power supply unit provides a more dependable type of power that can be used with the newer equipment,” Wells said. “Our design makes the unit more reliable in combat; it’s sealed to protect against dust and water.” He also said the new design is portable, and “as far as

maintenance goes, the parts are newer and easier to obtain.”

Employees working in the Special Projects and Fabrication Branch, Systems Integration and Support Directorate, fabricate the parts and assemble the modification kits in Warehouse 3. Then a fielding team removes the old components and installs the kit before Resetting the entire system.

During Reset, systems and equipment are returned to their pre-deployment [in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)] condition. The objective is to restore the item to operational readiness based on established maintenance standards.

“Instead of just reconditioning a 30-year old system, we made the proposal to recondition it with an upgrade,” Wells said. “The upgrade is the power modification kit.”

Depot engineers submitted the power modification proposal to Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command; it was approved and incorporated into an existing Reset Program.

It used to cost \$15,000 to Reset the old system; it only costs \$5,000 to fabricate, assemble and install the new kit. The Reset program manager office is at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Tobyhanna has made several upgrades to the AFATDS since the 1990s. First, the depot fabricated a kit enabling the AFATDS equipment to be transferred from vehicle to vehicle quickly and easily, saving the expense of packing and shipping entire vehicles.

Technicians here built and fielded installation kits so the system’s computers could be mounted in various vehicles.

“Prior to 1997, AFATDS were permanently mounted in vehicles,” Wells said. “The Army spent thousands in shipping fees to make repairs. Tobyhanna provided a solution by configuring the system for equipment transfer and kit installation.”

A year ago, depot engineers began designing the new power modification

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**Keith Hoffman tests a power inverter for the M998 Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems, the next generation prototype installed in a humvee rather than the M577 tracked vehicle. Hoffman is an electronics engineer in the Project Design and Development Division, Production Engineering Directorate. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)**

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# Army expands recruiting pool, raises enlistment age

FORT KNOX, Ky. —The Army has raised the enlistment age to 42, made possible under provisions of the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Army raised the active-duty age limit to 40 in January as an interim step while it worked out the additional medical screening requirements for recruits ages 40 to 42. Before January, an applicant could not have

reached his or her 35th birthday. The Army Reserve age limit was raised from 35 to 40 in March 2005.

Raising the maximum age for Army enlistment expands the recruiting pool, provides motivated individuals an opportunity to serve and strengthens the readiness of Army units. More than 1,000 men and women over age 35 have already enlisted since the Army and Army Reserve raised their age limits to age 40.

"Experience has shown that older recruits who can meet the physical demands of Army service generally make excellent Soldiers. They are mature, motivated, loyal and patriotic, and bring with them a wealth of skills and experience to our Army," said Col. Donald Bartholomew, U.S. Army Recruiting Command Assistant Chief of Staff, G5.

"We certainly do not expect for this change to result in a large increase of recruits; however, it will allow for those people who have the passion for service, but could not serve earlier in their lives, the opportunity to serve the nation now, when the time is right for them," he added.

All applicants must meet eligibility standards, to include passing the physical standards and medical examinations; however, those 40 to 42 will be given additional medical screening.

For Shannon D. Morris, 36, of Shreveport, La., enlisting in the Army was a dream-come-true. She said she had wanted to join since she was a teenager but she didn't get the chance.

"My brother was in the Army and it was always something that I wanted to do," she said. "My father encouraged me to do it, but I became a mother at a young age and that took the priority."

Morris thought she had lost her chance, but learned that the Army had raised its age limit when her son, Robert McLain, began talking with an Army recruiter. She said the more her son talked about his decision, the more interested she became in doing something for herself.

"When Robert told me I might still be young enough, the wheels started turning and I thought this might just be my last opportunity to get the benefits for my education and see the world."

Morris said her family was surprised she wanted to enlist and serve, but they are supportive of her plans. Her mother thought it was a great idea and her husband Rick, a district fire chief who will retire this summer, encouraged her as well.

"My brother thought I was crazy," she joked. "But he also thought it was great that I was doing it, and I couldn't believe how supportive everyone was of me. It made me proud to know that they were all behind me."

Morris, who will be a petroleum lab specialist, left for basic combat training May 25 and McLain followed May 30 to Fort Benning, Ga., where he began training to become a Ranger.

Recruits of all ages are eligible for the same enlistment bonuses and other incentives based on their individual qualifications.

*Editor's Note: Compiled from releases by the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Headquarters and the New Orleans Army Recruiting Battalion.*



Drill sergeants march in a recruit graduation ceremony at the end of a nine week basic combat training cycle at Fort Jackson, S.C. (Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy Pearsall)

## Stolen VA laptop turned in to FBI

by Steven Donald Smith  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The stolen Department of Veterans Affairs laptop computer and hard drive containing the personal information of more than 26 million veterans were turned in to the FBI June 28, the Veterans Affairs secretary said before Congress June 29.

Reports indicate that the FBI has made a preliminary determination that data contained on the computer and hard drive has not been accessed.

There have been no reports of identity theft or other criminal activity related to the stolen computer, R. James Nicholson told the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He added that the VA would still honor its promise of free credit monitoring for a year.

An unnamed individual turned over the laptop and hard drive to FBI officials in Baltimore. No persons are in custody at this time, officials said.

The laptop and hard drive were stolen from the Montgomery County, Md., home of a VA employee on May 3. Government officials do not believe the data on the laptop was the target of the burglary, and consider the break-in a random theft.

"This has brought to the light of day some real deficiencies in the manner we handled personal data," Nicholson said. "If there's a redeeming part of this, I think we can turn this around."

## THANKS

Dear Colonel Ellis,

Thank you for the warm welcome and superb support during my recent visit. I thoroughly enjoyed my tour of your facilities and meeting the members of your team.

I was particularly impressed by the progress you have made with the implementation of Lean Six Sigma programs. Your exemplary work on the AN/TPS-75 program and the Video Display Unit power supply increases efficiency and significantly reduces costs to the Army. The positive attitude of your team was

apparent in each area I visited. Please pass along my thanks to all of them for the outstanding support they provide to our Soldiers and all service members.

Continued best wishes in your command.



Sincerely,  
Francis J. Harvey  
Secretary of the Army

## POWER from Page 1

kits, using computer-aided engineering software.

"The new modification is more rugged and reliable in the battlefield," said Frank Nawrocki, mechanical engineer, Production Engineering Directorate. "We tried to think of everything when designing the kit, and we've received favorable responses from the operators in the field."

"The possibilities are exploding as everyone realizes the number of other vehicle-mounted systems that can benefit from the upgrade," he said. "This is the

best thing we've ever had for these old vehicles."

There are more than 500 vehicles that use the AFATDS system. Future plans include expanding the power modification upgrades to include various types of systems and vehicles.

The power modification upgrade in the soft-top version of humvees was approved by the AFATDS Program Manager and C-E LCMC Safety Office, according to Nawrocki. He explained laptop kits are the next generation of AFATDS equipment and what the depot is working on now. There are hundreds of vehicles returning from

the desert for Reset and the depot hopes to incorporate the power modification design into these vehicles, he added.

Right now the Army is the only service using this system, according to Wells. He said it's possible for other branches of the service to use the power modification kit and the technology being incorporated into vehicle production. "It's rewarding to see an idea come to fruition," Wells said. "Many employees here helped make the dream a reality. We all feel that if there was anything we can do to help the Soldiers be safer and more effective....we will."

## TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense.

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# CO: Work force will not settle for less



Reporter Editor Anthony Ricchiazzi interviewed depot commander Col. Tracy Ellis two weeks prior to his departure. Ellis shared his thoughts on the Tobyhanna work force and future challenges.

## What did you enjoy most about your tour at Tobyhanna Army Depot?

I've been proud to be part of Tobyhanna Army Depot – an organization with the mission of providing critical C4ISR support to Joint Warfighters.

I've enjoyed the daily interactions with members of the depot work force and have been amazed by the commitment and results they've produced. I've never been a part of a finer team. My family and I were welcomed into the Northeast Pennsylvania community and we'll leave with wonderful memories of the three years we called Tobyhanna Army Depot our home.

## What are the depot's best strengths?

People are the depot's greatest strength. It is through their sense of duty, pride in workmanship, flexibility, initiative, and ability to handle change that the depot has thrived and continues to increase its relevance to our Armed Forces.

Hundreds of depot employees have deployed to Southwest Asia and many others have provided on site support at locations around the world.

The depot continues to be the best value for our customers, combining unmatched quality, competitive costs and the ability to meet schedule requirements. And the ability of the work force to rise to the biggest challenges and produce outstanding results is unparalleled.

## What do you think the depot must do to remain successful?

There is tremendous potential in the area of C4ISR logistics support. The nature of the support that Tobyhanna may be called upon to provide will continue to evolve and change – just as it has evolved and changed in the 53 years that the depot has existed.

The ability of the depot to adjust to provide the

customer the required support – cost effectively and when and where required – will determine the level of success the depot will enjoy. And I know the depot will be successful because the work force will not settle for anything less.

## What are the most important challenges facing Tobyhanna?

The continuous improvement journey that the depot has been on has paid big dividends. These efforts have helped in reducing costs, improving quality, increasing throughput and enhancing safety.

But other organizations in the public and private sector are also improving and increasing their productivity and competitiveness. So a challenge to Tobyhanna is to maintain its competitive advantage by outpacing others in continuous improvement efforts.

A large percentage of the skilled and experienced work force, that is one of the depot's greatest strengths, will be retirement eligible over the next five to seven years. It will be a challenge to recruit, develop and retain those who will be asked to step up and fill the potential void that these retirements may create.

## What is your next assignment and do you have any future endeavors you'd like to tell us about?

My next assignment will be as the deputy chief of staff at Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.

## Any final thoughts?

Given a choice, I'd stay at Tobyhanna Army Depot until forced to retire. There isn't another assignment I'd rather have and certainly my tour as the depot commander for the last three years has been the highlight of my career.

Tobyhanna Army Depot and the people I've had the privilege to work with hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for the wonderful experiences, the memories, and for your dedicated support to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

## Col. Alberto to become 28th commander

Col. Ronald P. Alberto will assume command of Tobyhanna Army Depot during a Change of Command Ceremony 10 a.m. July 20.

Col. Tracy Ellis will relinquish command to Alberto, who will become the 28th depot commander. Ellis' next assignment is deputy chief of staff, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mazzucchi, commanding general, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command and Program Executive Office, Command, Control and Communications Tactical, will preside over the ceremony.

The 35th Army Band, Kansas Army National Guard, will perform during the ceremony, which will include participation by detachments of military and civilian personnel, and the Army Recruiting Command color guard.

The ceremony will be in front of the Headquarters Building; the inclement weather site is Building 3, Bay 1. All

employees are invited to attend.

Alberto comes to Tobyhanna from the Republic of Korea where he served as the 8th U.S. Army Support Operations Officer at Yongsan.

The colonel was commissioned in the Ordnance Corps following his 1983 graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Early in his career, he completed the Ordnance Officer Basic Course and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course prior to taking command of the 512th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Control Center, Vielsek, Germany.

Alberto later attended the Royal British Explosive Ordnance Disposal School and commanded the 3rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, Augsburg, Germany. He served as an ammunition materiel officer for the 84th Ordnance Battalion, Munchweiler, Germany.

He served at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala., as an engineer in the Javelin Anti-tank Missile Program Office. While there he deployed to work on the

Ammunition Retrograde Team, U.S. Army Missile Command in Saudi Arabia. He returned to Huntsville and the Javelin Program Office and followed that assignment as Aide-de-Camp to the commanding general, Missile Command.

Alberto then became the division ammunition officer and division support command supply officer, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea.

He later served in various project management positions with the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program in the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Alexandria, Va.

As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Independence, Mo.

He also held the position of chief, Ordnance Enlisted Branch, Army Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Va.

The colonel earned a Bachelor of



Col. Ronald P. Alberto

Science degree from West Point, a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico, and a Master of Science degree in Military Strategic Science from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

He's completed several military courses of study, including the Ordnance Officer Advanced Course,

the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Logistics Executive Development Course, and the Joint Professional Military Officer Course.

Alberto's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal.

He is married to Col. Donna Alberto, Secretary of the Combined Joint Staff, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea at Yongsan.



# IMA takes action to reduce operating costs

ARLINGTON, VA—Based on funding projections, the Installation Management Agency will take action to reduce expenditures by at least \$530 million for the balance of the fiscal year, which runs through September.

The Installation Management Agency's fiscal year 2006 funding position challenges IMA to closely manage its spending. Current Base Operations Support (BOS) funding for IMA is \$4.949 billion. Based on Army's recent midyear review funding assessment, it is scheduled to increase by \$722 million to a total of \$5.67 billion for the fiscal year.

However, this amount is still approximately \$530 million short based on current rates of spending. The shortage is due primarily to unbudgeted costs such as fuel price increases, physical security costs, foreign currency exchange rate differences.

Effective immediately:

—A 100 percent civilian hiring freeze is in effect;

—Commanders are beginning the process to release temporary and term employees as quickly

as legally possible, except for those who directly support life, health, safety and the GWOT;

—Commanders are developing spending plans for the balance of this year and next year that will provide the critical services to Soldiers and their families, while identifying the services that can be divested;

—Spending plans will identify contracts that can be reduced, cancelled or deferred until next year;

—Garrisons have been reducing cell phones and pagers, reducing government vehicle usage, and deferring as many expenses as possible in order to save money.

Commanders have also been told to use their planning for the balance of this year as the foundation for FY 07 spend plans.

"I view this as the ideal time to begin planning for FY 07, and the momentum will posture us for success by identifying for the future what we can and cannot afford," said IMA director Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald.



## All that jazz: Award-winning band plays the depot

The Madison Jazz band stopped at Tobyhanna June 20 on their way to a gig at the United Nations. The band, an independent group of 16 professional musicians from Huntsville, Ala., is composed of 14 to 18 year old students. They have played together for nearly three years and have earned numerous honors, including six National Concert Band titles, four National Jazz Band titles and numerous state, group and individual music awards. They played regularly at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Led by Johnny Nash since they were in his Middle School program, many of them teach at the junior high school level, play multiple instruments and have played together for years. They played at the United Nations last year and were asked to come back. One of the musicians, Derek Weidenthal, is the son of retired Col. Kurt Weidenthal, a former depot commander. (Photo by Tony Medici)

## Local group provides career guidance to deaf students

The Federally Employed Women (FEW) and the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office provided career guidance to Scranton State School for the Deaf students on April 27.

FEW representatives Brenda StDuran (chapter president), Dolores Strauss, Mary Noldy (also of the EEO Office) and Vada Dale assisted Bernard Holmes of the Technical Development Division. Depot employees Dave Zeplin, John McCarthy and Laura Dumback also participated.

"Their understanding of the specific problems that arise from being deaf was crucial in creating a successful presentation," StDuran said. "We demonstrated professional and non-professional ways to address or sell yourself at job interviews."

Three questions were asked at a mock interview. For example, students were asked what particular skills they offer a company.

"The students were attentive and said they enjoyed the creativity. They learned and were entertained at the same time," Strauss said. "Bernard performed an excellent skit on what not to do during a job interview."

FEW members and deaf and hearing impaired employees demonstrated professional interview skills followed by a question-and-answer session.

"The students presented valid questions and concerns which made our team feel that we were successful in guiding them towards their career goals," Strauss said.

## Feature stories sought

The Tobyhanna Reporter is looking for feature stories about depot employees. If you have, or know someone who has, an interesting story to tell, contact the Reporter staff (see contact information at the bottom of Page 2).

We've published articles about employee interests ranging from boat racing to blacksmithing; some have earned awards at the highest levels of the Army.



## Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval and then call X57091.



# Zardecki earns highest Army civilian award

by Anthony Ricchiazzi  
Editor

Tobyhanna's deputy commander earned the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the highest civilian award in the U.S. Army.

Army Secretary Francis Harvey presented Frank Zardecki the award on March 29 at the Pentagon. The award is presented annually.

Zardecki has been deputy commander since 1990 and has more than 43 years of federal service, including 39 here where he started as an electronics technician.



**Frank Zardecki, depot deputy commander, earned the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the highest civilian award in the U.S. Army. The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology/Army acquisition executive, listens as Zardecki explains work being done on a battery retainer for the miniature airborne GPS receiver during Bolton's tour of the Avionics/Intelligence Electronic Warfare Systems Directorate last summer. (Photo by Tony Medici)**

The award citation noted that Zardecki's management and leadership skills enabled the depot to accomplish numerous unique and special mission requirements that enhanced the readiness of the armed forces at war.

"He has devoted his career to fostering excellence in all areas of depot operations, and his advocacy and strong voice for flexibility and innovation have made Tobyhanna a model and an agent for change in the Defense Department logistics system," the citation reads.

"Frank Zardecki has dedicated his civilian government career to the growth and development of the depot and to continuous improvement of the Army and DoD organic industrial and logistical support missions," said depot commander Col. Tracy Ellis. "His vision and management skills have been instrumental to the depot's growth and its status today as the Defense Department's premier communications-electronics repair and manufacturing facility."

Key accomplishments during his service as deputy commander include:

He was a key management representative in introducing a labor-management partnership program, far in advance of later programs mandated for implementation within the federal government. The program earned national recognition from Vice President Gore's National Partnership Council in the mid-1990s.

Zardecki was the driving force in introducing a new team-based corporate philosophy that has improved communications within the depot and with the depot's many customers, focused the depot workforce on key business performance metrics, and enabled the depot to effectively adjust to the transformational changes that have occurred since the end of the Cold War.

Under his leadership, the depot has developed a comprehensive modernization program, resulting in modern facilities and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

In the last 13 years, the depot investment totaled over \$233 million in new facilities, equipment and latest technology.

He effectively prepared the depot for the challenges of the defense base closure process that started in 1988.

Seeing this as an opportunity to promote efficiency in the DoD depot maintenance structure, Zardecki early on promoted the concept of inter-servicing the maintenance of communications-electronics workload. Inter-servicing would reduce excess capacity and reap cost savings by consolidating this workload at Tobyhanna.

Tobyhanna has become the DoD leader in inter-servicing, performing more than 30 percent of its work for non-Army customers. The U.S. Air Force has designated the depot as its Technology Repair Center for ground communications-electronics systems.

The depot also is aggressively implementing Lean Thinking throughout its operations. To date, these initiatives produced total benefits of \$40.6 million in cost savings and avoidance for the depot and its customers. Among the many accomplishments, Lean efforts reduced the repair cycle time for the AN/TPS-75 radar by 39 percent and reduced maintenance costs by 36 percent.

Tobyhanna is also a leader in workplace safety and environmental stewardship. The depot is the first DoD agency to earn star-level status in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program; regularly recognized for operating one of the cleanest and most effective industrial operations in DoD, frequently earning local, state, Army and Defense awards and accolades for innovative programs and achievements in such areas as recycling, pollution prevention, and installation remediation. Tobyhanna earned the 2004 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Environmental Quality - Industrial Facility and the 2005 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Pollution Prevention - Industrial Installation.

"Frank has always managed with a view to the long-term viability of the depot, with an emphasis on providing the best support to the warfighter while controlling the cost of operations and improving productivity, quality and efficiency," Ellis said. "His service here is noteworthy for his leadership in introducing and managing change as depots have evolved to meet the dynamic requirements of the Army and the Armed Forces for depot maintenance and logistics support."

## C-E LCMC program manager honors technicians

# ASE employees earn accolades for RESET program support

by Anthony Ricchiazzi  
Editor

Employees in the Aircraft Survivability Equipment Branch were recognized for outstanding support of the Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE) RESET program.

Nathaniel Simmons, ASE program manager, Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Systems Management Command, presented branch employees with a Plaque of Appreciation recognizing them for outstanding support to the C-E LCMC ASE RESET program.

"Sometimes we are given impossible deadlines to meet," Simmons said during his June 12 visit. "I just got a call from FORSCOM (U.S. Army Forces Command) with a job they said they needed next week.

"I thought next month would be more realistic, but Tony [Gentle] said no, we can get it done.

"He and his team consistently find ways to make things happen."

The branch is part of the Command, Control and Computer/Avionics Directorate's Avionics Division. Gentle is the branch chief.

ASE includes the AN/ALQ-144, the AN/ALQ-156 and their test sets.

The ALQ-156 Missile Warning System is an airborne radar system designed to warn of a threat missile targeting the aircraft.

The ALQ-144 is an infrared countermeasures system which protects aircraft from heat seeking (infrared) missiles by confusing or decoying heat seeking missiles.

Gentle said Tobyhanna has been repairing, overhauling and testing ASE for 25 years.

"We've never had the volume we have now," he said. "We do in a month what we were doing in a year. We began the RESET mission in December 2003 and have repaired 368 ALQ-144s and 36 156s. Sand is the biggest culprit, although filters limit the amount that can get into a unit."

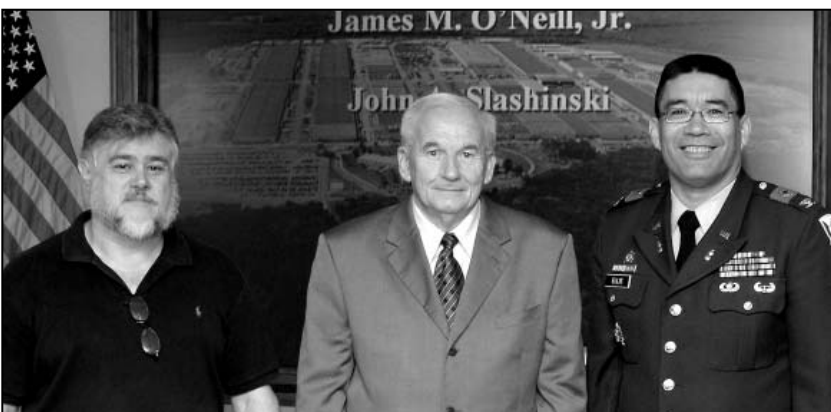
Fifty three technicians repair and test the systems.

"It's a great collaborative between Tobyhanna and the C-E LCMC," Simmons noted. "I wish also to recognize Cindy Dorosky and Larry Kitchum of the Production Control Directorate here for their invaluable contributions to this mission."



**Nathaniel Simmons, third from right, presented a Plaque of Appreciation to the employees of the Aircraft Survivability Equipment Branch for their outstanding support of the ASE RESET program. There are 53 technicians who repair and test the AN/ALQ-144 and the AN/ALQ-156. The branch is part of the Command, Control and Computer/Avionics Directorate's Avionics Division. Simmons is the ASE program manager, Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Systems Management Command. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)**

## CAREER MILESTONE



From left, John Slashinski, James O'Neill and depot commander Col. Tracy Ellis, attend the June 28 Length of Service Awards ceremony. (Photo by Tony Medici)

TwoTobyhanna Army Depot employees were recognized for their years of government service during the June 28 Length of Service ceremony.

**John Slashinski**, 35 years, electronics mechanic, Voice Communications Division; Communications Systems Directorate.

**James O'Neill**, 30 years, sheet metal mechanic, Refinishing Services

Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate

In addition to service certificates and pins, honorees will receive an engraved clock for 35 years service, and a framed American flag and aerial photo of the depot for 30 years service.

Honorees who attend the ceremony get a four-hour time-off award. Depot commander Col. Tracy Ellis presented the awards.

## SCEP GRADUATES

### Electronics

Robert Davies	Luzerne County Community College	D/ISR
David Gruber	Luzerne County Community College	D/CS
Lawrence Hardic	Johnson College	D/C3/Avionics
Matthew Homisak	Johnson College	D/ISR
Robert Johnson	Johnson College	D/ISR
Francis LoDolce	Luzerne County Community College	D/CS
Andrew Mills	Johnson College	D/C3/Avionics
James Morgan	Johnson College	D/CS
Adam Rafalko	Luzerne County Community College	D/CS
James Sable	Johnson College	D/ISR
Brian Schultz	Johnson College	D/CS
Eric Scott	Johnson College	D/ISR
James Serafin	Luzerne County Community College	D/CS
James Stine	Johnson College	D/CS
Vincent Veina	Johnson College	D/ISR
Frank Wallick	Luzerne County Community College	D/CS
David Werner	Luzerne County Community College	D/ISR

### Machinist

John Arigot	Johnson College	D/SIS
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### General equipment mechanic

Lawrence Fugok	Johnson College	D/PM
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### Management Analyst

Apparao Prattipati	University Scranton Master's Degree, Business Administration	D/BU
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### Engineering

Corey Petruncio	Penn State University Electrical Engineering	D/PE
James Shannon	Wilkes University Electrical Engineering	D/PE
Michael Sherin	Penn State University Master's Degree, Electrical Engineering	D/PE

## NEW SUPERVISORS

**Jeffrey O'Neill** is the Threat Simulation and Component Repair Branch chief, Command, Control and Computer Systems/Avionics Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 24 technicians who provide programmed depot maintenance on Miniature Multiple Threat Emitter Systems used by the Air Force in an electronic combat training environment.

Prior to his current position, O'Neill was an electronics mechanic leader in the Threat Simulation and Analysis Branch in the Range Threat Systems Division.

He began his career at Tobyhanna in August 1998.

O'Neill is a 1992 graduate of Dunmore High School. He earned an associate's degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology in 1994 from Johnson College in Scranton.

He resides in Dunmore.

**Mark Gallo** is the Fort Lewis, Wash., site manager, Forward Repair Activity (FRA) Division, Command, Control and Computer Systems/Avionics Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 33 technicians who perform depot-level maintenance and training for the Tactical Operation Center, Common Ground Station, and repair and overhaul Standard Army Management Information Systems and commercial off the shelf computer equipment.

Gallo serves as the chief of multiple regional FRAs, exercising supervisory responsibility and technical accountability over the work operations at assigned continental United States or overseas sites providing support to military units.

Prior to his current position, Gallo was the Standards and Evaluations superintendent, Communications-Computer Systems Division, Support Group Directorate, Western Air Defense Sector, McChord Air Force Base, Wash. He began his career at Tobyhanna in May 2006.

Gallo served in the Air Force for 19 years and Washington Air National Guard for four years. He enlisted in 1981 and was trained as a ground radio journeyman. He held many leadership positions in the communications field. He also oversaw morale and welfare of deployed airmen while acting first sergeant at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

In 1992, Gallo traveled with the U.S. Secret Service, providing communication support to the presidential and vice presidential candidates: Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

During his career he worked at installations around the world: Guam, Germany, Oklahoma, Alaska, Korea and Japan. He retired as a senior master sergeant in 2005.

His awards and decorations include the Air



O'Neill



Gallo



Fabunan

Force Meritorious Service Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal and Humanitarian Service Medal with one device, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four devices, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization device, Air Force

Organizational Excellence Award with two devices, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five devices, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Award with five devices.

Gallo is a 1980 graduate of George Washington Senior High School in Mangilao, Guam. He's working toward an associate's degree in electronic systems technology.

He and his wife, Theresa resides in Olympia, Wash. They have a son, Marcus, 11.

Gallo is a member of the American Legion, Air Force Sergeant's Association and Disabled American Veterans.

His hobbies include golfing, camping, fishing and hunting.

**Ruben Fabunan** is the Man Portable Branch chief, Electro-Optic/Night Vision Division, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 16 technicians who repair and overhaul man portable night vision equipment such as the AN/TAS-4, AN/TAS-6 and PAS-7.

Prior to his current position, Fabunan was an electronic integrated system mechanic leader, Communications, Electronics, Metrology Branch, Maintenance Center, U.S. Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, Calif. He began his career at Tobyhanna in May 2006.

He has over 19 years federal government service, which he began as an apprentice at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, Calif. He worked in the calibration lab there before being transferred to the Marine Corps Logistics Base following a Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision. Fabunan served as a work leader in the electro-optic shop, then radar shop where he helped lead production efforts on the TPS-59 Radar.

Fabunan is a 1985 graduate of Banning High School in Wilmington, Calif.

He and his wife, Veronica, are the parents of Ruben, 21; Rubie, 15; Rudy, 13; and Reina, 9 months.

He enjoys spending time with his family.

THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) MONTHLY RATES CHART IS ON THE INTERNET

[www.tsp.gov/index.html](http://www.tsp.gov/index.html)

To check out how retirement investments are doing, click on the following links:  
Returns, Share Prices & Fund Sheets, Current Returns, Monthly Returns, and Individual TSP Funds



# WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Joseph Arale	Packer	DDTP
Steven Hamstra	Supply technician	DDTP
Jason Haupt	Electronics integrated sys mech	D/IRS
John Tochenny	Materials handler	D/CS

## Correction:

Edward Generose's name was misspelled in the June 6 issue of the *Reporter*. He's a mechanical engineer in the Production Engineering Directorate.

## VLTP

Thousands of Tobyhanna Army Depot employees have donated more than 40,857 annual leave hours to help 383 people over the past 18 years.

The voluntary leave transfer program (VLTP) lets federal employees donate annual leave to fellow employees who have exhausted their annual and sick leave because of either a personal or family medical emergency.

In addition, people in "use or lose" status can donate excess leave days to employees participating in the VLTP.

For more information about the VLTP, call Theresa Planchock, X57963; or Joseph Heitman, X57324, Labor/ Management-Employee Relations Division.

The following is a list of eligible employees who need leave donations.

**Edward J. Baker**, Automated Storage and Retrieval System Division, Production Management Directorate.

**Clyde E. Beavers**, Voice Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

**Joseph J. Ferretti**, Mobile Equipment Refinishing Branch, Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

**Hiram Gillyard**, Processing Engineering Division, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

**Eugene Golembeski**, Shipping and Receiving Branch, Communications Security Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

**Bonnie Hunsinger**, Sidewinder Missile Branch, Tactical Missile Division, C3/Avionics Directorate.

**Carol M. Mackarevich**, Communication Scheduling Division, Production Management Directorate.

**Tosha Phillips**, Surveillance Systems Division, Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

**Michael Rapach**, Welding Branch, Industrial Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

**Thomas E. Scully**, Multiple Threat Branch, Range Threat Systems Division, C3/Avionics Directorate.

**Henry D. Skursky**, Facilities Maintenance Division, Public Works Directorate.

**John J. Triboski**, Digital Group Multiplexer/Mobile Subscriber Equipment (DGM/MSE) Branch, Voice Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

**Al Urbanski**, Antenna Systems Branch, Satellite Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

**Anthony Zielinski**, Avionics/IEW Scheduling Division, Production Management Directorate.

## RETIREE

One employee met with depot commander Col. Tracy Ellis June 30 before retiring.

**Thomas Willard** was a training administrator, Technical Development Division, Production Management Directorate.

He served 28 years in the Army, active and reserve, before retiring in 1996. Willard started working at Tobyhanna in 1980.

Willard resides in Moscow with his wife, Donna.

After retirement he plans to develop a consulting business dealing with home theater installation. Willard's hobbies include ham radio and cycling.



Willard

### Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval then call X57091.



# COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline.Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For more information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



### VAN/CAR POOLS

- **Pittston:** 1 opening Sept. 1, submit form by July 15 to receive vouchers, 15 passengers, van, 5/4/9, pick up point is Pittston Plaza, call Linda Cohen, X57362 or Bill Klimchak, X57230.
- **Stroudsburg:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, van, pickup point in south Stroudsburg, e-mail John.kulp@tobyhanna.army.mil.
- **Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, "A" placard, non-smoking, call Dave Burt, X58902 or Rich Joyce, X56774.
- **Plains, Wilkes Barre, Miners Mills:** 2 openings, van, 15 passengers, 5/4/9, call Joe Walski, X57240.
- **Clarks Summit:** 2 openings, 5/4/9, pickup point at the VFW, contact John Bevard, X56250 or e-mail.
- **Pittston:** Openings, 5/4/9, leaves Pittston Plaza at 6 a.m., call Stanley, X59967 or Dave, X57067.
- **Taylor:** Individual seeks van pool, 6-7 passengers, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., call Steve Kishel, X58727.
- **Palmerton, West End, Brodheadville:** Openings, 5/4/9, Routes 115/940 area, send e-mail to Keith Orach.
- **Jessup, Archbald, Mount Cobb park & ride:** Starting van pool, 7 passengers, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., contact Keli Miletta, X59158, or keli.miletta@us.army.mil.
- **Dallas, Shavertown, Exeter:** Accepting names for waiting list, 7 passengers, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, call Bob Redinski, X59184 or send e-mail.
- **Waymart, Lake Ariel, Sterling:** 1 opening, 7 passengers, van, 5/4/9, call Wade Myrthel, X59291.
- **Wilkes Barre:** 1-2 openings, car, 5/4/9, first Friday off, "A" placard, starts at Sam's Club, call Jean, X56261 or 510-7692.



### TRADING POST

- **Misc. items:** Large igloo-style dog house,

\$20; portable manual typewriter with case, good condition, old, sturdy, all metal, \$25; mini trampoline, 36-inch diameter, for exercising, \$10; cardioglide exerciser, push/pull action, \$15; and ice cream machine, like new, freeze canister, makes about 1/2 gallon, \$10, call Ruth Montalbano, 676-5246 after 5 p.m.

• **Golf clubs:** Titleist 8040S irons, RH, 3 to PW, stiff steel shafts, good condition, asking \$225; Taylor Made Rescue Mid, RH, #2 hybrid, 16 degrees, stiff steel shaft, like new, \$60; many more used golf clubs, call Chris, 332-9181.

• **Canoe:** Looking to purchase a canoe, call Mary, 504-4827.

• **Air Conditioner:** Portable, 10,000 BTU, used 3 months, original price, \$385, asking \$250, call Gloria, 876-3978.

• **Sleeper sofa:** Queen-size, \$150 OBO, call Darlene, 894-4912.

• **Boat:** Starcraft Semi V, 12 feet, 10 horsepower Johnson outboard motor, trailer, \$1,495, call Al Aukscunas, 343-9541.

• **Car seat:** Alpha Omega, 5-point adjustable harness, 5-40 pounds; rear facing 5-35 pounds and forward facing, 22-40 pounds, excellent condition, call Karen, 842-1204.

• **Pool heater:** Hayward, hoses included, 150,000 BTU, like new, used one season, original cost \$1,000, asking \$650, call Darlene, 894-4912.

• **Household items:** Antique dining hutch, \$250; antique round pedestal occasional table, \$75; youth, wood bunk bed set/mattresses, \$60; youth 3-drawer dresser and 4-drawer desk, \$20 each; recliner, \$40; weight set and bench, \$30, and brass bed, \$200, call Terry, 839-2416 or 839-9428.

• **Recreational vehicles:** ATV, 2005 Polaris Trail Boss 330, excellent condition, rode twice, \$3,500 OBO, and 1998 Ford Minnie Winnebago, 22 feet, Class C, 33,682 miles, sleeps 6, bathroom in rear w/stand-up shower, roof A/C and heater, trailer hitch, refrigerator, freezer, 3-burner stove/oven, microwave/hood combo, color TV, DVD player, asking \$26,500, call Cristin, 472-3319 or 972-6332.

• **Windows:** (2) special order, 25.5x48.5 (rough opening), call Gloria, 876-3978.

## OBITUARY



Mitchell

**Harry F. Mitchell** died March 20. He was 52.

A Navy veteran, Mitchell was a sandblaster in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate. He began his depot career

in 1981.

A native and resident of Scranton, son of the late James and Rose Marie Buchman Mitchell, he was a graduate of the Somerset County Vocational High School, N.J.

Surviving are a daughter, Michelle Mitchell; four brothers, David, James, Raymond and Wayne; two sisters, Karen Giles and Barbara Moore; a granddaughter, Shyann; and several nieces and nephews.



# Life is a beach

*TOBYHANNA EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY*

PHOTOS BY TRACEY CONDI

Thousands of Tobyhanna employees enjoyed the afternoon off for Employee Appreciation Day, held July 23.

The day featured a beach theme, complete with beach boardwalk and casino tent. Beverages were served, along with chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chips, fruits and vegetables.

Employees also enjoyed games and raffles. Several employees competed in games, including basketball, volleyball and horseshoes. New games for EAD included a Texas Hold 'Em Contest.

Employees competed for more than 50 prizes, including a flat screen television, grill set and gift certificates to several area businesses and restaurants.



Brenda Diaz talks to the fortune teller. Diaz works in the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center.



A young boy tosses a ball at a target to dunk Col. Tracy Ellis into the water tank.



Lt. Louis Pistella is one of several members of the Security Division patrolling the depot during EAD.



Left, Tim Ward and Stefanie Laird promote the designated driver program during the annual EAD festivities. Both work in the Safety Division.



This year's Classics to Clunkers Car Show gave dozens of employees an opportunity to show off their favorite car or motorcycle.



Teams participated in the volleyball tournament. Employees also competed in the basketball, horseshoes, golf putting and darts contests.



Joan Sehn has some fun in the sun with a hoola hoop on the makeshift beach during the 2006 Employee Appreciation Day. Sehn works in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.



Ron Rains, left, and Joe Mozaleski cook hamburgers during the lunch rush. Employees had a choice of entrees, salads, fruits and vegetables.



An employee tries to win a prize with one of his three free spins on the Casino Slot Machines hoping to win a prize.